



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MAINTENANCE DREDGING FOR THE
UMPQUA RIVER COASTAL NAVIGATION PROJECT
DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON

CENWP-PM-E-09-06
Issue Date: June 25, 2009
Expiration Date: July 25, 2009

30 Day Notice

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Portland District, proposes maintenance dredging at the Umpqua River project. Annual maintenance dredging project is needed because of rapid shoaling at the entrance channel and sedimentation in the navigation channel. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide adequate channel dimensions for tugs, barges, and commercial fishing vessels and to place dredged material in the two Ocean Dredge Material Disposal (ODMD) Sites, newly designated by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 under Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. Three project areas require maintenance dredging: (1) Umpqua River entrance; (2) Umpqua River navigation channel; and (3) Winchester Bay access channels. Up to 275,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediments would be removed during each dredging effort: 150,000 cy from the Umpqua River entrance; 100,000 cy from the Umpqua River navigation channel; and 25,000 cy from the Winchester Bay Boat Basin Access Channels. Material disposal will occur at two newly designated ODMD sites or at an in-bay site on the north side of the navigation channel at approximately RM 1.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations [Federal Register 40 CFR 1508.9(a)], a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared by a federal agency when a proposed action is not covered by a categorical exclusion or otherwise exempt from NEPA. Federal agencies use the EA to determine whether the proposed action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects.

The draft EA for the Maintenance Dredging for the Umpqua River Coastal Navigation Project has been prepared to ensure that NEPA compliance is addressed. Completion of this EA will involve consideration of all public comments. Upon completion of the EA, the Corps will make a determination of significance, concluding the NEPA process.

Environmental Documents: A draft Environmental Assessment addressing the impacts associated with the activity is available for public review and comment on the Corps website at http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/en_plan_assess.asp.

State Water Quality Certification: State Water Quality Certification, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, was issued for 11 Oregon Coastal maintenance dredging projects, including the Umpqua River project, on July 29, 2004. The Certification was issued for a period of 10 years, expiring on July 29, 2014.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972: A consistency determination was prepared for 11 Oregon Coastal maintenance dredging projects on March 22, 2004. The projects were review by the Oregon

Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) as a federal activity pursuant to section 307(c)(1) of the Coastal Zone Management Act. On August 4, 2004, DLCD issued a concurrence statement, which is valid until August 6, 2014.

Additional Information and Comments: Questions or comments regarding the environmental documents should be directed to Dr. Jan Stuart, Environmental Resources Branch, telephone (503) 808-4543, or at the address below. Comments on this notice must be mailed by the above close date to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland
Attn: CENWP-PM-E
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date.

Should no response be received by the above closing date, a “no comment” response will be assumed.